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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE

1. Medical education in China has undergone a series of significant changes since the Communists have gained control of the country. I consider the most important changes to be:
 - a. Consolidation of medical education facilities,
 - b. Chinese language instruction, and
 - c. Specialized intensive training.
2. It appears that for medical education the People's Republic of China has been divided into five districts by the Communists: Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest. Each district has its own administration for medical education, evidently subservient to the educational administration en bloc. A number of medical schools have been combined with others enabling them to concentrate their meager laboratory facilities and faculties.
3. Chekiang Provincial Medical College, Hangchow, has been closed and its resources turned over to the National Chekiang University in Hangchow. Hopeh Provincial College of Medicine, Paoing, is no longer functioning. Peking Union Medical College, Peking, was closed for a while in 1950 and 1951 and used for a military hospital but I believe that it is again functioning as a medical training institution. The resources of National Kiangsu Medical College, Chienkiang, have been transferred to National Central University, Nanking. It is believed that the resources of Mukden Medical College, Mukden, have been transferred to National Shenyang Medical College, Mukden. The following medical schools are believed to have been closed: Hupeh Provincial Medical College, Wuchang; National Chung-cheng Medical College, Nanchang, Kiangai; Medical College of Nantung University, Nantung, Kiangsu; and Tungteh Medical Academy, Shanghai.
4. Great efforts are being made to eliminate the English language from Chinese universities. With respect to medical education the Cheeloo translations are being used as a starting point. The Cheeloo translations are some basic translations of medical texts made about 1925 by some missionaries at Cheeloo University (Shantung Christian) Tsinan, Shantung. They are not good. I would say that they are only about 80% sound. However, they furnish a framework for

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further translations. I do not know of any concentrated group of translators. I would imagine that the work would be distributed among competent translators wherever they may be located. I do not believe that Chinese language instruction will decrease the ability of the medical personnel being trained. When one considers the fact that the Communists are training specialists in short periods of time, I believe that the gain in time by eliminating the necessity for learning English more than compensates for the losses due to poor translations or lack of text material in the Chinese language.

5. The Communists have adopted the idea that since there are large numbers of students available, it is better to train specialists in the medical profession rather than to follow the traditional idea of spending six to eight years training physicians and surgeons who are equipped to handle virtually every type of medical problem and later developing specialists from these. Specifically, malarialogists are being trained in a six-month course at a rate of four thousand per year. They are then sent out in teams. The teams are equipped for mosquito control, diagnosis, preventive medicine, public health education with respect to malaria and treatment of those suffering from malaria. High school graduates are being trained for this work.
6. Likewise, surgeons are being trained in two years. Each has his specialty. Some are being trained to perform appendectomies and nothing else.
7. I would consider the biggest health problem in China to be tuberculosis. Great numbers of people suffer from the disease. Even in peacetime soldiers were not screened for tuberculosis, and it was not uncommon to find high ranking non-commissioned and commissioned officers with advanced cases of the disease. I do not know of any effort being taken by the Communist government to combat or control tuberculosis.
8. Amoebic dysentery and diarrhea have evidently become of great concern to the Communists. I understand they are training teams to inform their soldiers about these diseases and to treat them.
9. Of course, continued production of large numbers of highly specialized medical technicians will eventually result in an oversupply in any given field. While this is pure speculation, it is not impossible that the Communists are planning for a day when Communism will spread throughout Asia and these specialists can be used to good advantage as good-will ambassadors of public health in acquired territories.

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